



Docket No. 12969

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Bitler

Serial No.: 09/398,377

Filing Date: 09/17/99

Title: Polymeric Thickeners for Oil-Containing Compositions

Group Art Unit: 1717

Examiner: Szekely, R.

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Version with Markings to show Changes requested by the Reply mailed April 25, 2001  
in accordance with 37 CFR 1.121 (c) (1) (ii)

This paper sets out a version of each of the claims rewritten as requested by the Reply filed April 25, 2001 (but not the claims which were unchanged), marked up to show all the changes relative to the previous version of the claim. In this version,

- (i) a parenthetical expression (which is the same as the parenthetical expression in the clean version of claims set out in the Reply) follows the claim number and indicates the status of the claim as amended, and
- (ii) the changes are shown by brackets (for deleted matter) and underlining (for added matter).

10. (Twice Amended) A thickened oil composition comprising

- (1) an oil, and
- (2) dispersed in the oil, a polymer which
  - (a) has a crystalline melting point,  $T_p$ , and an onset of melting temperature,  $T_o$ , such that  $T_p - T_o$  is less than  $T_p^{0.7}$ ;
  - (b) is soluble in the oil at temperatures above  $T_p$ ,

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- (c) has been dispersed in the oil by a process which comprises  
(i) dissolving the polymer in the oil at a temperature above  $T_p$ ,  
and  
(ii) cooling the solution to crystallize the polymer in the oil,  
and  
(d) is a side chain crystalline (SCC) polymer which is  
substantially free of functional groups, and which consists  
essentially of [units selected from]

[(a)] (i) 50 to 100% by weight of units derived from at  
least one n-alkyl acrylate or methacrylate in which the n-alkyl  
group contains 12 to 50 carbon atoms, and

[(b)] (ii) less than 50% by weight of units derived from  
at least one alkyl acrylate or methacrylate in which the alkyl  
group is not an n-alkyl group containing [10] 12 to 50 carbon  
atoms;

the composition being at a temperature below  $T_p$ .

11. (Amended) A composition according to Claim 10 wherein the SCC polymer is  
present in amount at least 3 % by weight and the n-alkyl group in the (i) units contains  
16 to 50 carbon atoms.